

as general methods, including "characteristics for many glucosides," of plant analysis, showed that the fluid extract did not yield an alkaloid.—*American Journal of Pharmacy*, 1895, No. 1, p. 31.

THE ELIMINATION OF MEDICINAL SUBSTANCES BY THE GASTRIC MUCOUS MEMBRANE.

DR. PAUL BINET states that the gastric mucous membrane normally eliminates a large quantity of chlorine, especially under the form of free hydrochloric acid during digestion or in the state of the alkaline chlorides. An intravenous injection of sodium chloride notably increases the proportion of fixed chlorine in the stomachic contents. The passage appears to be less easy when the chlorine is held in an oxygenated combination, as in the alkaline chlorates. Iodine and bromine injected as alkaline iodides and bromides easily pass into the stomach, and their elimination lasts several days after the injection. Antimony, however, after either intravenous or subcutaneous injection, cannot be determined to be present by either the Marsh test or by electrolysis between zinc and platinum, so that its passage into the stomach is not a constant phenomenon. As for lithium, traces have been found in the water removed from the stomach by lavage after a subcutaneous injection of fifteen grains of lithium chloride. The results of the investigation of strontium have been negative, while those of magnesium have been doubtful. In the last case the quantities obtained have been too small, even after an intravenous injection of one hundred and fifty grains, to admit that these are not the result of accident or of contamination of the food. These investigations are important not only as showing how it is possible for reabsorption to take place, but as well to demonstrate that in certain cases of poisoning washing of the stomach may be employed with benefit, even if the poison has not been taken by the mouth, as, for instance, when given hypodermatically or *per rectum*.—*Revue Médicale de la Suisse Romande*, 1895, No. 1, p. 5.

THE USE OF HYDROCHLORIC ACID IN GASTRIC DISEASES.

DR. HENRI HUCHARD believes that this remedy possesses two important properties—eupeptic and antiseptic. As to the former, it supplies to the gastric juice the acid which is wanting, and therefore it is indicated in all conditions in which hydrochloric acid is diminished and with greater reason when it is absent. In the latter case by its presence it can render the pepsin active which otherwise would be inert. This drug is indicated in delayed digestion, deficient secretion of hydrochloric acid, chronic gastritis, cancer of the stomach, in the pyrexias, which almost completely suppress its secretion, in pulmonary tuberculosis, in under-compensated hearts, especially in chlorosis and anæmia, and in certain conditions of the nervous system, as neurasthenia. It is contra-indicated in hypersecretion, gastro-succorrhœa, ulcer, acute gastric affections, in cancer secondary to round ulcer, nervous dyspepsias of the neuropathic and hysterical. Its use should be continued for three or four weeks, omitted for a fortnight, to be again renewed. Large doses, as those recommended by Ewald, fifteen drops three or four times after meals, at quarter-hour intervals, are to be avoided. As an antiseptic it prevents abnormal fermentations and the production of organic acids. It is indicated in

dilatation, in certain forms of gastric cancer, in all gastric conditions characterized by fermentation, and in pyrosis due to the formation of acids due to fermentation. In these cases, administer it some hours after meals. As an eupeptic give it during and after the meal. To combine these two effects exhibit one dose immediately after and a second one three or four hours later.—*Journal des Praticiens*, 1895, No. 7, p. 97.

THE TREATMENT OF NERVOUS VOMITING.

DR. TISSERAND (*Thèse de Paris*) prescribes the use of ice internally as well as externally, or, in place of the latter, a spray of ether. A one per cent. chloroform-water, four per cent. solution of lactic acid, ten to fifteen drops of tincture of iodine, or revulsives to the epigastrium, may be tried. If these means fail, the patient may be nourished by the œsophageal tube, which will usually succeed with hysterical and neurasthenic individuals. In paroxysmal vomiting these remedies fail, and recourse must be had to strong doses of morphine or of cocaine, or even administered hypodermatically. Atropine sulphate in dose of one hundred and twenty-eighth of a grain has been recommended. If there is hæmatemesia, an ice-bag externally and ferric chloride, and especially ergotin, are to be prescribed. If the cause can be ascertained, sodium bicarbonate for the excessive amount of hydrochloric acid, or if there is excessive secretion, lavage may be useful. In neurasthenia and hysteria the aid of hydrotherapy or suggestion may be invoked. If the vomiting is reflex, find the cause: give purgatives if there is digestive torpor; anthelmintics for worms; induce abortion for the uncontrollable vomiting of pregnancy.—*Journal des Praticiens*, 1895, No. 6, p. 90.

TREATMENT OF PAINFUL DYSPEPSIA.

The editor notes the usefulness of the term dyspepsia, although it lacks definiteness. For the sensation of distention, most frequently associated with pains in the præcordium, occurring in neurotic persons, and generally termed "nervous indigestion," a combination of chloral, one-half to one drachm, sodium hyposulphite, one to two drachms, and peppermint-water to three ounces, administered in teaspoonful doses after meals, has proved to be useful. The chloral acts as an antiseptic and nervous sedative, as does also the sodium hyposulphite; and peppermint-water, if freshly prepared, possesses all the antiseptic properties common to the volatile oils, in addition to its slight local anæsthetic and stimulant properties.—*Therapeutic Gazette*, 1895, No. 2, p. 86.

BROMETHYLFORMINE.

DR. LEOP. LAGNER notes the search after combinations of bromine with organic bodies which shall possess the properties of the metallic bromides without their unpleasant secondary effects, as furunculosis and fetid breath. This combination was obtained by Trillat from bromethyl and formine and is a bromethylate. It is colorless, crystallizing in scales very soluble in water, and in this solution is free from the disagreeable taste of the metallic bromides. Its composition is given as $(\text{CH}_2)_6\text{N}_4\text{C}_2\text{H}_3\text{Br}$, and contains 32.13